

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 29, 2011

This *abbreviated version* of our regular e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

### Fiscal Focus:

All eyes are on Washington as members of Congress debate raising the national debt limit and tackling the deficit. Today, the House approved a revised debt plan to raise the debt ceiling; the Senate voted to table the legislation resulting in extension of negotiations into the weekend to avoid a projected August 2<sup>nd</sup> default.

### State News

Latest reports from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)

The JLBC July 2011 ***Monthly Fiscal Highlights*** preliminary conclusions:

"With higher than expected revenues, we currently anticipate that at least \$300 million of the \$332 million budgeted shortfall will be eliminated by the time of official book closing."

The full report can be found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jul-11.pdf>

***FY 2011 Year End Revenues & Budget Update, July 27, 2011*** is located at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/FY11revandbudupdateslideshow.pdf>

The most recent update to the JLBC report, ***Tracking Arizona's Recovery*** is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0711.pdf>

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Although the Arizona State Legislature is currently not in session, interim committee meeting agendas are posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp?Type=AGENDAS>

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**Share your thoughts!** If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators *at any time*, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

**Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**.

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* **or** by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

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## **FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

Discussion related to the congressional debate on raising the debt ceiling and tackling reduction of the deficit:

From **Kaiser Health News** - *What Will States Do If Federal Dollars Stop Flowing?*

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/index.php/2011/07/what-will-states-do-if-federal-dollars-stop-flowing/>

Also from **Kaiser Health News** - *Health Industry Could Feel Pinch, Then Pain From Default*

[http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2011/July/29/default-prospects.aspx?utm\\_source=khn&utm\\_medium=internal&utm\\_campaign=widget](http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2011/July/29/default-prospects.aspx?utm_source=khn&utm_medium=internal&utm_campaign=widget)

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities**

*Questions & Answers related to the Debt Ceiling*

[http://www.nasuad.org/documentation/nasuad\\_materials/NASUAD's%20Questions%20%20Answers%20on%20the%20Debt%20Ceiling.pdf](http://www.nasuad.org/documentation/nasuad_materials/NASUAD's%20Questions%20%20Answers%20on%20the%20Debt%20Ceiling.pdf)

## **Recent Legislation**

### **H.R.2290 Social Security Caregiver Credit Act of 2011**

Introduced on 6/22/2011 by Representative Nita M. Lowey (NY-18), the Act amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act with respect to determining entitlement to and the amount of any monthly benefit, including any lump-sum death payment, payable under OASDI on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of any individual. Deems such an individual to have been paid a wage (according to a

specified formula) during each month during which the individual was engaged for at least 80 hours in providing care to a dependent relative without monetary compensation for up to five years of such service. Also: makes this Act inapplicable in the case of any monthly benefit or lump-sum death payment if a larger benefit or payment would be payable without its application.

On June 22, 2011, the Act was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**H.R.2564**  
**Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2011**

Introduced on 7/15/2011 by Representative Peter T. King (NY-3), the Act establishes within the Department of Justice (DOJ) an Office of Elder Justice, which shall address issues relating to elder abuse. Requires the Director of such Office to:

- (1) provide information, training, and technical assistance to assist states and local governments in preventing, investigating, prosecuting, and mitigating the impact of elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect and in addressing the physical and psychological trauma to victims of such abuse;
- (2) evaluate the efficacy of measures intended to prevent, detect, respond to, or redress elder abuse and the extent to which the needs of the victims in each state are met by crime victim services, programs, and sources of funding;
- (3) evaluate training models to determine best practices for investigating elder abuse, addressing evidentiary and legal issues, and interacting with victims;
- 4) conduct, and regularly update, a study of state laws and practices relating to elder abuse.

Directs the Attorney General to annually:

- (1) collect from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices statistical data relating to the incidence of elder abuse;
- (2) identify common data points among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices that would allow for the collection of uniform national data related to elder abuse;
- (3) publish a summary of the data collected;
- (4) identify the types of elder abuse data that should be collected and what entity is most capable of collecting it; and
- (5) develop recommendations for collecting additional data.

Authorizes the Director to provide grants and technical assistance to assist not more than 15 states in establishing and operating programs designed to improve:

(1) the response to elder abuse in a manner that limits additional trauma to victims, and

(2) the investigation and prosecution of cases of elder abuse.

Requires eligible states to:

(1) have a qualified crime victims compensation program; and

(2) establish or designate a multidisciplinary task force on elder justice.

The Act amends the Social Security Act to include the Director as the alternate for the Attorney General as a member of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council.

On July 15, 2011, H.R.2564 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

*Note: No further actions to report on H.R. 1606 Special Care Dentistry Act of 2011.*

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**NOTE:** If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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### **Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:  
<http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

**You can contact the White House** at:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:  
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

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### **Other News:**

From the **Administration on Aging**

This month marks the **46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older American Act** that set out *specific objectives for maintaining the dignity and welfare of older individuals and created the primary vehicle for organizing, coordinating and providing community-based services and opportunities for older Americans and their families.*

Visit the AoA website for more information:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AOARoot/AoA\\_Programs/OAA/Introduction.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AOARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/Introduction.aspx)  
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July 26th marked the **21st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).**

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**Kaiser Health Tracking Poll July 2011** – Public Opinion on Health Care Issues

<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/8209-F.pdf>

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**From the National Institutes of Health**

For tips to help older adults avoid heat-related illnesses, go to:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jul2011/nia-18.htm>

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***Ride or Relocate? Transportation and Housing Option for Senior Adults***

Location: Online Transit webinar

Dates: August 3, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m. Central

Cost: Free

**For more information:**

[http://www.surtc.org/training/2011-08\\_riderelocate.php](http://www.surtc.org/training/2011-08_riderelocate.php)

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**WHAT: Senior and Caregiver Discussion; Navigating the Journey** – "Tips and Strategies for Paying for Long Term Care Needs"

**WHEN: Thursday, August 18, 2011**, The Center Adult Day Care Services, 3407 N. Windsong Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ

**For more information:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/Aug2011-PV.pdf>

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**WHAT: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Cruz Caregiver Education Conference**

**WHEN: August 20, 2011**, Santa Cruz County Court House, Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room #118, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Nogales, AZ

**For more information:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NogalesALZConf2011Flyer.pdf>

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**WHAT: ArizonaSERVES Summit**

**WHEN: Thursday, September 8, 2011**, City of Grace, Mesa, AZ

**For more information:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/090811ArizonaSERVESSummit.pdf>

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**WHAT: NACOG Area Agency on Aging, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder Issues Conference Creating Caring Communities: Opening Pathways to the Future**

**WHEN: September 29, 2011**, High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ

**For more information:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NACOG-AA2011Conference.pdf>

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Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:  
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/qaca/LegUpdates.asp>

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If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

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**Thank you!**

**Enjoy your weekend,**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**